

4 - 3394 -

9 December 1966

~~CONTINUATION~~ Palestine/Kuwait

SUBJECT: Activities of the Grand Mufti

DATE OF INFORMATION: 4 - 10 October 1966

LEVEL/ACCURACY: D-3

The following information was received from various reliable British sources:

1. According to a member of the Arab League, one of the reasons for the visit of Muhammad Iqbal Burhanuddin, Mufti, and others, together to Egypt was to obtain the Grand Mufti's approval to their raising money for propaganda.

Washington comment: See WD-1527 of 15 October which contains other items discussed by these three men with the Mufti.

2. An independent source states that 'Imad Douwaihi, former Syrian and Mufti agent also discussed with the Mufti ways and means of conducting propaganda on his behalf in Syria.'
3. They were also to sound out the governments of those countries to discover whether any of them would welcome the Mufti as a guest. The Mufti wants to go to Lebanon, this being the best center for controlling the activities of the Palestine Arabs.
4. The Presidents of Syria and of the Lebanon both indicated in recent conversations with a reliable source that the Mufti would not be welcome in their countries.

~~SECRET~~ Activities of the Arab Bloc

x. A member of the Syrian cabinet is kept secret who would travel, as well as attend, international and Middle Eastern conferences for the purpose of preventing Syria from trying to extend such contacts beyond the Arab Conference.

6.

In addition to a course given to the Syrian leaders (including the Arab Socialist Party) early in October and held in Cairo, Syria's Foreign Minister has been invited to attend a conference in Palestine and, according to him, the trip is to assist even to take a more active part in politics.

7. Subsequently the Arab visited the Syrian Minister of Finance but was refused entry to his office, apparently because he was attempting to prevent the Arab League from being established or having Syria join it. (According to the Arab) officials of the Arab League and the Arab Bank were responsible for this resistance. In addition, the Arab League was particularly annoyed with what was being done in hindering the necessary organization to conclude further negotiations.

8. According to most of the Arabs, the Arab bloc believes the British are beginning to realize that the Arab states are poor, and that is why they will grant them no aid other than that which comes from themselves.

~~SECRET~~  
LAW DOCUMENT  
S-106-A-1065

~~SECRET~~ ANALYSIS OF THE GAZA AREA

5. A number of the Syrian agents in Gaza stated that they had been sent to conduct "secret operations" in order to gather information or intelligence, and to determine how or the whom they should work with in order to achieve their aims and objectives. They also stated that they would not be able to determine who or the whom they should work with until after consulting.
6. According to a source close to the Syrian leaders, they expect the North African People's Liberation Army (NPA) early in October and take the lead in eliminating Israel. They said that they would not be able to accomplish this by attacking the civilian population which is not wise, and it would be better to attack the military units and to make open to take a more active role in conflict.
7. Apparently the Arab states and the Syrian leadership are trying to keep up their support that is not able to sustain them due to the need for attacking or bombing Israel.
8. Most of Beirut (Secretary of the Arab) and the Arab League, and also the Arab Foreign Ministers, and included in this group the Palestinian nationalists, is asked to make no particularly emotional statements regarding any military preparedness.
9. According to most of Beirut, the Arab world believe that the situation was beginning to reach the final stage very soon, and that is why most probably the Arab foreign ministers will attend the London conference.

IN-300  
LAWSON  
S-300-A-105  
Oct: Wilson(Stale)  
cc: Jenkins(Stale); Presidential Staff Dept

~~SECRET~~ URGENT